Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A welding wire container which includes an outer shell for storing welding wire W therein and a base plate for closing a lower end of the outer shell, the welding wire container comprising:

an upper protrusion enlarged in diameter beyond the outer shell for structurally reinforcing an upper outer portion of the outer shell;

a lid sized for covering the outer shell; and

an upper fixture for fixing and wrapping the lid at an upper end of the outer shell to obtain structural reinforcement, wherein the upper fixture includes a flange extending inward along an outer edge of the lid, a supporting face folded from the flange and extending along an outer periphery of the upper protrusion and a folded groove arranged under the supporting face and having a diameter smaller than that of the upper protrusion.

2. (Withdrawn) The welding wire container in accordance with claim 1, wherein the upper protrusion includes a folded portion which is enlarged in diameter in the outer shell.

3. (Withdrawn) The welding wire container in accordance with claim 1, wherein the upper protrusion includes a ring member which is enlarged in diameter, the ring member being fitted around and fixedly bonded to the outer shell.

4. (Withdrawn) The welding wire container in accordance with claim 1, wherein the upper protrusion includes an enlarged portion enlarged in diameter at an upper edge of the outer shell and a ring member seated on an inner edge of the enlarged portion, the ring member having an inside diameter substantially identical with that of the outer shell.

5. (Withdrawn) The welding wire container in accordance with claim 1, wherein the outer shell, the base plate, the lid and the upper fixture are made of paper.

6. (Withdrawn) The welding wire container in accordance with claim 1, wherein the lid includes a flange contacting with an upper edge of the outer shell and a stepped portion extending down inside the outer shell for supporting an upper inner periphery of the outer shell.

7. (Withdrawn) The welding wire container in accordance with claim 1, wherein the flange of the upper fixture has a central inner periphery which is sized adequate for fixing a head cap for drawing out the welding wire.

8. (Currently Amended) A welding wire container which includes an outer shell for storing welding wire W therein, a base plate for closing a lower end of the outer shell and a lid for covering the outer shell, the welding wire container comprising:

a fitting projection arranged in a lower inner portion of the outer shell and having a diameter smaller than that of the base plate for catching and supporting the base plate thereon; and

a lower fixture for wrapping the lower end of the outer shell to structurally ~~reinforcing~~ reinforce the same, wherein the lower fixture includes a flange extending along a lower edge of the outer shell and a supporting face folded from the flange and extending along a lower outer periphery of the outer shell; and

a backing member made of steel and mounted on an inner portion of the fitting projection,

wherein the backing member includes:

a body extending along an inner periphery of the fitting projection, the body having a number of holes perforated from an inner face thereof toward an outer face thereof and projected burrs;

a flange folded from the body and extending along an outer edge of the base plate;

cut sections formed at the body and the flange in a radial direction of the outer shell; and

a diameter-adjusting means arranged at both ends of the body and the flange, whereby the backing member is adjusted in diameter.

9. (Original) The welding wire container in accordance with claim 8, wherein the fitting projection includes a lower end portion of the outer shell which is folded inward into an L-shape.

10. (Original) The welding wire container in accordance with claim 8, wherein the fitting projection includes a folded portion which is overlapped to have an outside diameter substantially identical with the inside diameter of the lower end of the outer shell.

11. (Original) The welding wire container in accordance with claim 8, wherein the fitting projection includes a ring member having an outside diameter substantially identical with the inside diameter of the lower end of the outer shell, the ring member being fixedly bonded to the lower inner portion of the outer shell.

12. (Original) The welding wire container in accordance with claim 8, wherein the fitting protrusion includes a steel backing member extending along a lower inner periphery of the outer shell and tightly fixed thereto, wherein the backing member includes an outer vertical portion extending along the lower inner periphery of the outer shell, the vertical portion having a number of holes perforated from an inner face toward an outer face and burrs projected thereon, and a flange folded from the outer vertical portion and extending along an outer edge of the base plate.

13. (Original) The welding wire container in accordance with claim 8, wherein the fitting projection includes a folded portion reduced in diameter adjacent to the lower end of the outer shell.

14. (Original) The welding wire container in accordance with claim 8, wherein the outer shell, the base plate and the lower fixture are made of paper.

15. (Currently Amended) A welding wire container ~~which includes~~ formed of paper and including an outer shell for storing welding wire W therein and a base plate for closing a lower end of the outer shell, the welding wire container comprising:

an upper protrusion integrally formed with the outer shell and enlarged in diameter beyond the outer shell for structurally reinforcing an upper outer portion of the outer shell;

a lid sized for covering the outer shell;

an upper fixture formed as an integral and endless ring structure for fixing and wrapping the lid at an upper end of the outer shell to obtain structural reinforcement, wherein the upper fixture includes a flange extending inward along an outer edge of the lid, a supporting face folded from the flange and extending along an outer periphery of the upper protrusion and a folded groove arranged under the supporting face and having a diameter smaller than that of the upper protrusion;

a fitting projection arranged in a lower inner portion of the outer shell and having a diameter smaller than that of the base plate for catching and supporting the base plate thereon; and

a lower fixture for wrapping the lower end of the outer shell to structurally ~~reinforcing~~ reinforce the same, wherein the lower fixture includes a flange extending along a lower edge of the outer shell and a supporting face folded from the flange and extending along a lower outer periphery of the outer shell.

16. (Previously Presented) The welding wire container in accordance with claim 8, wherein the outer shell includes an outer protrusion enlarged in diameter adjacent to a lower end of an upper fixture.

17. (Original) The welding wire container in accordance with claim 16, wherein the outer protrusion includes a folded portion enlarged in diameter beyond the outer shell adjacent to the lower end of the upper fixture.

18. (Original) The welding wire container in accordance with claim 16, wherein the outer protrusion includes a ring member which is enlarged in diameter adjacent to the lower end of the upper fixture, the ring member being fitted around and fixedly bonded to the outer shell.

19. (Previously Presented) The welding wire container in accordance with claim 8, further comprising an inner shell coaxially arranged in a central portion of the outer shell, wherein the inner shell is fixed at a lower end thereof to the base plate and folded inward at an upper end thereof to form a folded portion for structurally reinforcing the upper end.

20. (Original) The welding wire container in accordance with claim 8, wherein the base plate includes an underlying circular backing member fixed thereto, the backing member having an outer periphery corresponding to an inner periphery of the fitting projection for structurally reinforcing the lower inner portion of the outer shell.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) The welding wire container in accordance with ~~claim 21~~ claim 8, wherein the diameter-adjusting means includes:

- nut members mounted on the body in an inner periphery thereof adjacent to the cut sections; and

- a bolt member having male threads at both ends for screwing into the nut members,

wherein rotation of the bolt member enlarges the diameter of the body so that an outer periphery of the backing member closely contacts with the lower inner periphery of the outer shell, whereby the backing member more securely supports the lower end of the outer shell against external force.

23. (Original) The welding wire container in accordance with claim 8, wherein the lower fixture includes clamping means at end sections cut along a radial direction of the outer shell, wherein the clamping means tightens the lower end of the outer shell so that the base plate and the fitting projection of the outer shell closely contact with each other.

24. (Original) The welding wire container in accordance with claim 23, wherein the supporting face of the lower fixture has a number of holes perforated from an outer face toward an inner face and burrs projected around the holes for fixedly pressing the outer periphery of the outer shell.

25. (Original) The welding wire container in accordance with claim 23, wherein the clamping means includes a clamp, wherein the clamp has:

a handle rotatably mounted on one end of the supporting face;

a hook arranged in a middle portion of the handle; and

a protrusion arranged at the other end of the supporting face and adapted to catch the hook,

whereby the handle is flapped toward the protrusion, the hook is hung around the protrusion, and then the handle is flapped away from the protrusion allowing the hook to pull the protrusion so that the ends of the supporting face are strongly connected to each other via the hook and the protrusion.

26. (Withdrawn) A welding wire container which includes an outer shell for storing welding wire W therein, a base plate and a lid for covering the outer shell, the welding wire container comprising:

upper and lower fixtures and fitted around respectively upper and lower portions of the outer shell, wherein the upper fixture has a flange extended for a length substantially identical with the thickness t of the outer shell, and the lower fixture has a flange extended for catching the base plate thereon; and

clamping means at both ends of the upper and lower fixtures and,

wherein the clamping means are detachably tightened so that the outer shell maintains its original shape and couples with the base plate, and the clamping means are tightened and loosed so that the outer shell, the base plate and the upper and lower fixtures and are readily coupled and disassembled.

27. (Withdrawn) The welding wire container in accordance with claim 26, wherein the upper and lower fixtures and each include:

a number of holes perforated from an outer face toward an inner face; and

burrs projected around the holes in the inner face for fixedly pressing the outer face of the outer shell.

28. (Withdrawn) The welding wire container in accordance with claim 27, wherein the holes of the upper and lower fixtures have the form of a number of slots perforated perpendicular to the direction of the upper and lower fixtures, the slots being arranged in rows in the outer faces of the upper and lower fixtures,

wherein the upper and lower fixtures each includes a clamp at one end thereof and an insert at the other end, the insert being formed by removing a portion of the flange,

wherein the insert has incisions corresponding to threads of bolts which are rotatably installed in the clamp,

wherein the upper and lower fixtures each are longer than the circumference of the outer shell, and

wherein the insert is inserted into a bore of the fixture and screwed out between the bolts in the clamp and the each fixture while drawing together the both ends of the each fixture so that the both ends are bound to each other,

whereby the outer shell, the base plate and the upper and lower fixtures are readily coupled and disassembled.

29. (Withdrawn) The welding wire container in accordance with claim 26, wherein the upper and lower fixtures each have a protrusion in an inner periphery and a groove in an outer periphery,

wherein the outer shell has upper and lower protrusions and upper and lower grooves in outer peripheries thereof,

wherein the protrusions of the upper and lower fixtures correspond respectively to the grooves of the outer shell, and so positioned that the base plate is caught on the lower protrusion of the outer shell.

30. (Withdrawn) The welding wire container in accordance with claim 29, wherein the upper and lower fixtures each include:

a number of holes perforated from an outer face toward an inner face; and

burrs projected around the holes in the inner face for fixedly pressing the outer face of the outer shell.

31. (Withdrawn) The welding wire container in accordance with claim 30, wherein the holes of the upper and lower fixtures have the form of a number of slots perforated perpendicular to the direction of the upper and lower fixtures, the slots being arranged in rows in the outer faces of the upper and lower fixtures,

wherein the upper and lower fixtures each includes a clamp at one end thereof and an insert at the other end, the insert being formed by removing a portion of the flange, the protrusion in the inner periphery and a groove in the outer periphery,

wherein the insert has incisions corresponding to threads of bolts which are rotatably installed in the clamp,

wherein the upper and lower fixtures each are longer than the circumference of the outer shell, and

wherein the insert is inserted into a bore of the fixture and screwed out between the bolts in the clamp and the each fixture while drawing together the both ends of the each fixture so that the both ends are bound to each other,

whereby the outer shell, the base plate and the upper and lower fixtures are readily coupled and disassembled.

32. (Withdrawn) The welding wire container in accordance with claim 26, wherein the base plate includes:

a circular plate corresponding to the inside diameter of the outer shell; and

a circular dampproof plate corresponding to the outside diameter,

wherein the circular plate has an upper plate, an intermediate plate and a lower plate,

wherein the upper plate has a circular array of holes perforated in a central portion thereof,

wherein the intermediate plate has slots perforated corresponding to the circular array in the upper plate, the slots having the same number as the holes in the upper plate and being longer than the holes in the upper plate,

wherein the lower plate has the form of a circle,

wherein the upper plate, the intermediate plate, the lower plate and the circular dampproof plate are layered in their sequence,

the welding wire container further comprising: an inner shell erected corresponding to the circular arrays,

wherein the inner shell has a number of stepped projections in a lower end for being fixed to fitting steps defined in the upper plate and the intermediate plate, whereby the inner shell is coupled with the base plate.

33. (Withdrawn) The welding wire container in accordance with claim 1, wherein the outer shell has a polygonal cross section.

34. (Withdrawn) A welding wire package comprising: the welding wire container for storing welding wire stacked therein in accordance with claim 1.